

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division Public Affairs
For Immediate Release
1:45 p.m., Sept. 9, 2005
For media only: 601-631-7979.

Corps of Engineers' update to Hurricane Katrina response

VICKSBURG, MISS. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports it is making great progress in removing the flood waters from New Orleans.

As of noon today, 32 of 148 existing pumps in New Orleans proper are operating, pumping 11,282 cubic feet per second, or cfs, and 38 portable pumps are operating, pumping 734 cfs. In addition, 9 of 26 existing pumps in Plaquemines Parish reported operating at 1,360 cfs.

Several factors have led the agency to revise its original estimates for un-watering the stricken area. Among them are beneficial weather with no significant rainfall; strong easterly winds that have allowed lake levels to recede lower than expected; the development of deliberate un-watering breaches or “notches” which are draining the Chalmette area and Plaquemines Parish area better than expected; and the ability to acquire more pump capacity for the New Orleans East area than originally projected.

The new estimates dates to the complete the draining are as follows:

New Orleans: October 2

New Orleans East: October 8

Chalmette: October 8

Plaquemines East: October 18

Plaquemines West: October 18

These estimates are based on normal seasonal rainfall.

The Army Corps of Engineers, in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, provides disaster response assistance to the nation, working in concert with 30 federal departments, as well as, state and local governments.